

Relief on the way for the displaced

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NEW DELHI: The Centre will soon come out with rehabilitation policy for those affected by big development projects.

"We will soon come out with a rehabilitation policy for those affected by big projects," Union Water Resources Minister Saifuddin Soz said when asked whether he agreed with the United Nations Development Programme assessment that large dams are creating social and ecological damages.

"We need large dams, but we have to take care of those displaced by dams. We will

soon come out with a policy," Prof Soz said after releasing the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) commissioned Human Development Report-2006 here on Thursday. Mr Maxim Olson, the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator in India was also present on the occasion.

The main discussion in the report was on "Water for Life" and "Water for Livelihood".

The UN agency stressed that large infrastructure programmes should be subject to critical scrutiny for impacts on the environment and the poor.